



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006

No. 30

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENT).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 9, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES W. DENT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Whoever meditates on the law of the Lord will bring forth much fruit at harvest time."

Lord God, who can bring forth blessings from just deeds, listen to our prayer this day. Give us the wisdom to take time to meditate upon Your revelation, Your law. Help us to find knowledge in prayerful reflection and be assured of Your love, especially in times of difficulty.

Your law holds nature and all peoples together.

May lawmakers today reflect the mindset and gracious manner revealed in Your loving commands. And may their work contain the depth of justice and the expansive embrace of human goodness that You reveal to Your people, by giving them Your law which lasts until now and forever. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PORTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

### THE UAE AND OUR PORTS

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, putting the UAE in charge of our ports is as crazy as outsourcing our Border Patrol to Saudi Arabia.

We have two Achilles heels: our Mexican border and our seaports.

The UAE says that they are our friends. Here is some straight talk: the UAE gave us two terrorists on 9/11. They provided the money for the attacks of 9/11. They recognized the Taliban on 9/11. They refused to freeze Osama bin Laden's assets after 9/11. They have voted against us at the U.N. 90 percent of the time since 9/11. And today they announced that they will threaten the United States of America if we block this transaction. If these are our friends, what the heck does an enemy look like?

Mr. Speaker, we have but one choice: block this ports deal. We should not outsource our national security to anyone.

### PRESIDENT'S BUDGET OUT OF TOUCH WITH PRIORITIES OF AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, President Bush is now touting the line item veto as the magic formula to get our deficit under control. Then why does the President not begin by actually sending Congress a balanced budget?

For 5 years now, one of the President's main priorities has been to provide billions in tax breaks to his friends in the pharmaceutical and insurance industry, the oil and gas industry, and America's wealthiest elite. When the President provides these tax breaks to his friends, he increases the deficit and prevents the Federal Government from being able to properly address the concerns of hardworking Americans.

There is no doubt the President has lost control of the deficit, piling mountains of debt on the backs of our children and grandchildren. Under President Bush, a projected 10-year \$5.6 trillion surplus has turned into a \$3.3 trillion deficit. This year the deficit is expected to reach \$423 billion, the largest deficit in history. And yet the President suggests making his tax breaks to his friends permanent.

### RECOMMENDATIONS TO LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS

(Mr. MURPHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, according to the Centers for Disease Control, every 6 minutes someone in this country dies from an infection they picked up in a hospital. That is 90,000 people and a total cost of \$50 billion. Yet when hospitals adhere to patient safety measures, they can dramatically reduce these infections.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H793